



## Tornadoes | After Hazard Preparation Checklist

### What Should I Do After A Tornado?

- ❑ Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or your preferred local news source for updated information and instructions.
- ❑ Check for injuries. Give first aid and get help for injured or trapped persons. Taking care of yourself first will allow you to help others safely until emergency responders arrive.
- ❑ Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- ❑ Help people who require assistance, especially individuals with functional needs and their caregivers.
- ❑ If you are trapped, try to attract attention to your location.
- ❑ Report damaged power or gas lines to the utility company immediately.
- ❑ Avoid damaged areas and buildings and keep away from rescue operations if you do not require assistance.
- ❑ If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe.
- ❑ Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and sturdy shoes.
- ❑ Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights when examining buildings. DO NOT USE CANDLES.
- ❑ Examine structures to ensure they are not in danger of collapsing.
- ❑ Look for fire hazards, such as leaking gas lines or damaged electrical systems. If you smell gas or hear a hissing noise, open a window and quickly get outside. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.
- ❑ Clean up spilled medications, bleaches, gasoline, or other flammable liquids immediately.
- ❑ Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell burning insulation, turn off the electricity at the main circuit box (but do not step in water to do so). Call an electrician if required. Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.
- ❑ Take pictures of the damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance claims.
- ❑ Use phones only for emergency calls to avoid overloading communication systems
- ❑ Keep all your animals under your direct control. Pets may become disoriented, particularly if the disaster has affected scent markers that normally allow them to find their home, and may be able to escape from your home or yard if fencing has been damaged. Be aware of hazards at nose and paw/hoof level, particularly debris, spilled chemicals, and other substances.